

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 22, 2011

*Background notes for Monday, April 25th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

COMMISSIONER SHORTHOSE

Welcome to the Park and Recreation Commission, Andrea! I look forward to working with you! Don't hesitate to ask any of us for additional information to assist you in the discussions of the many issues before the Commission.

MEETING REMINDER

Due to the League of Women Voters' Warrant Meeting at Pollard at 7:30 PM, the Commission is meeting at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be in the "Inner Space" meeting room located in the Media Center. The Media Center is just across the hall from the main entrance.

Reminder – due to the Town Meeting schedule, the Commission is currently only scheduled to meet once during the month of May. Rather than meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays, the Commission will meet on the 3rd Monday which is May 16th. The meeting will be held at the Park and Recreation Office at PSAB.

SPRING FIELD UPDATE

The fields are all open for the spring. With the regular rain storms, it has been difficult keeping Newman fields open, at the back of the school. The sod farms are just opening up for the season, so the work at McLeod will be scheduled shortly.

ROSEMARY POOL

The drawdown of the lake and pool will begin next week, after some preliminary testing is done. The hope is to finish all the pre-season repairs, cleaning and painting by mid-May, so that the pool can re-fill and be ready for a June 20th opening.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Saturday, April 23	Needham 300 Town-wide Clean-up Day
Monday, April 25	League of Women Voters Warrant Meeting
Saturday, April 30	Spring Trail Day at Ridge Hill (co-sponsor Park & Recreation)
Monday, May 2	First Day of Town Meeting

COMMISSION GOALS

Chairman Tom Jacob has asked the Commission members to review last year's important issues and goals of the board. The document is included in the Commission meeting packet. I have also included the goals set for me by the Town Manager.

EASEMENT

I am waiting for word from the Planning Director on legal wording for an easement to the camp property on Rosemary Lake within the new development off of Nehoiden Street. This was negotiated on behalf of the Commission, and would be built by the developer. This easement will allow pedestrian access to the camp property. If everything is approved by Monday night, the Commission will be asked to officially accept the easement on behalf of the Town. If it isn't ready for Monday, the Commission may be asked to post a special meeting prior to your May 16th meeting.

TOWN MEETING

Article 36 (Cash Capital) in the Town Meeting warrant has two projects of interest to the Commission. Funding has been recommended for some small playground improvements at the Walker-Gordon playground. Also listed under Cash Capital is a project to renovate the diamond at Walker-Gordon. The diamond renovation is the top priority project on the second tier of projects, but it is hoped that it will be moved up to the first tier and funding will be requested. If approved, the work on the diamond would be bid with the work to be done at the 174 Charles River Street parcel.

Article 40 is the feasibility study of the Cricket Field Building. The Finance Committee has recommended this article be adopted.

The Commission may be asked for an opinion on the Article 11 – a citizen's petition to create a zoning amendment that would allow for a farmer's market. There are some people who would like to see a parking lot at one of the parks utilized for a farmer's market.

VISITORS FROM PAKISTAN

We have had a great visit with the two government officials from Pakistan. They have completed their official two weeks in Needham, and are heading to New York City for the weekend. For the next two weeks, they will be in Wellesley, but will come back to attend part of Needham's Town Meeting. Last Friday, Rick Merson, Patty Barry and I toured them around Needham visiting parks, trails and DPW facilities.
